



Department of Public Health and Human Services  
**ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY**  
P.O. Box 4369, Helena, MT 59604  
(406) 444-2642 Toll-Free (800) 821-7284



**PRIVATE WATER SAMPLE - BACTERIOLOGICAL (COLIFORM) TEST**

***PLEASE KEEP SAMPLE COOL AFTER COLLECTION***

**(See back of this form for Collection Instructions)**

**ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETED FOR ANALYSIS**

Fees Valid July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2012

Please choose one test:

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Coliform Presence/Absence \_\_\_\_\_\$21.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Coliform Count (number of bacteria) \_\_\_\_\_\$25.25

Please **INCLUDE A CHECK** for the correct amount payable to DPHHS.  
**SAMPLES NOT PAID IN ADVANCE WILL NOT BE ANALYZED.**

**COMPLETED RESULTS TO BE SENT TO (Please PRINT one letter per box):**

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

County

Phone

**COPY of results sent to:**

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

**Account Information(If different):**

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

COLLECT DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / **20** \_\_\_\_\_

COLLECT TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ **AM PM**

COLLECT BY: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ (if known)

Sampling Location/Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Sample Source: Well Spring Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Kitchen tap, well head, bathroom sink, etc.)

**LAB USE ONLY IN THIS BOX**

Amount Rec'd: \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Check Written: \_\_\_\_\_

Payer: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Rec'd: \_\_\_\_\_ Test(s) Requested: TCPA TCQT Fe-Bact S-Bact

Time Rec'd: \_\_\_\_\_

Rec'd By: \_\_\_\_\_

Lab #:

## Total Coliform Collection Instructions

**NOTE:** Bacteria samples must reach the laboratory **within 30 hours of collection** time. Check your post office for the best mailing times. Keep the sample cool after collection; don't leave it in a hot vehicle.

1. Remove the screen from an indoor cold-water faucet
2. Clean the inside and outside of the faucet with a bleach solution or with alcohol
3. Run the water for 2-3 minutes to clean out the lines
4. Reduce the water flow to about pencil size
5. Carefully remove the top from the 100-mL bacteria collection bottle, making sure not to touch the inside of the cap or bottle
6. **Without rinsing the bottle**, fill it to the 100-mL mark; leave the white powder or pill in the bottle
7. Cap the bottle firmly, mark your name and the collection date on the bottle with a waterproof pen
8. Fill out all the paperwork, include a check for the cost of samples and return the bottle to the lab in the envelope provided.

### **About Total Coliform Bacteria and E. coli....**

Total Coliforms are usually harmless bacteria that are naturally present in the environment. Because total coliforms and more-harmful bacteria can exist in the same environment, the presence of total coliforms is used as an indicator that potentially-harmful bacteria may also be present.

E. coli bacteria, as well as disease-causing bacteria, are found in the intestines of warm-blooded animals. The presence of E. coli in water is a good indication that animal fecal materials have contaminated the water supply. It is highly recommended that you disinfect your water source using bleach. Disinfection instructions are available from your county sanitarian or the State Environmental Laboratory.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or are man-made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.